

### REMARKS

By this paper, claims 9, 72 and 88 have been amended. Claims 9-13, 15, 29-46, 48, 49, 56, 61, 62, 70, 72-79, 87, 88, 91 and 92 remain pending.

In the Office action dated December 22, 2006, claims 9-13, 15, 29-46, 48, 49, 56, 61, 62, 70, 72-79, 87, 88, 91 and 92 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In so rejecting the claims, the Examiner stated that claims 9 and 72 recite "both the graft component and the first and second leg portions, resulting in a double recitation of the same part." Moreover, the Examiner stated that claim 88 is "confusing and inaccurate since the anchoring structure 86 is not spaced longitudinally from the expandable frame 40. Further, the anchoring structure 86 and the frame 40 are not located along the graft component but are longitudinally separated therefrom."

In response thereto, independent claims 9 and 72 have been amended to recite that the graft component includes first and second leg portions to thereby traverse the § 112, second paragraph rejection of those claims. Moreover, claim 88 has been amended to recite that the plurality of reinforcing structures and the expandable frame are each longitudinally spaced so that they are non-overlapping in order to traverse the § 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 88. Accordingly, it is believed that each of the pending claims are now in a condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have attempted to completely respond to the rejections set forth in the outstanding Office action. In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be reconsidered, the claims allowed and the application passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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